

Egypt

Emergency Response Update

26 February 2025

Moataz, a 32-year-old Syrian refugee, fled violence in his homeland and sought safety in Cairo in 2019. Alongside his wife, he worked to rebuild their lives in their new country of asylum. After three years in Egypt, they welcomed the birth of their two children. Now employed at a clothing factory, Moataz's greatest hope is to secure a bright future for his kids. ©UNHCR/Karim Hany



1.5 million
Sudanese forced to flee to Egypt

since the start of the Sudan crisis in 2023, according to the Government of Egypt.

16% funded

of the \$137.7 million required by UNHCR for the refugee response in Egypt in 2025.



Overview of refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt

925,000

Refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR Egypt as of 26 February 2025.

53%



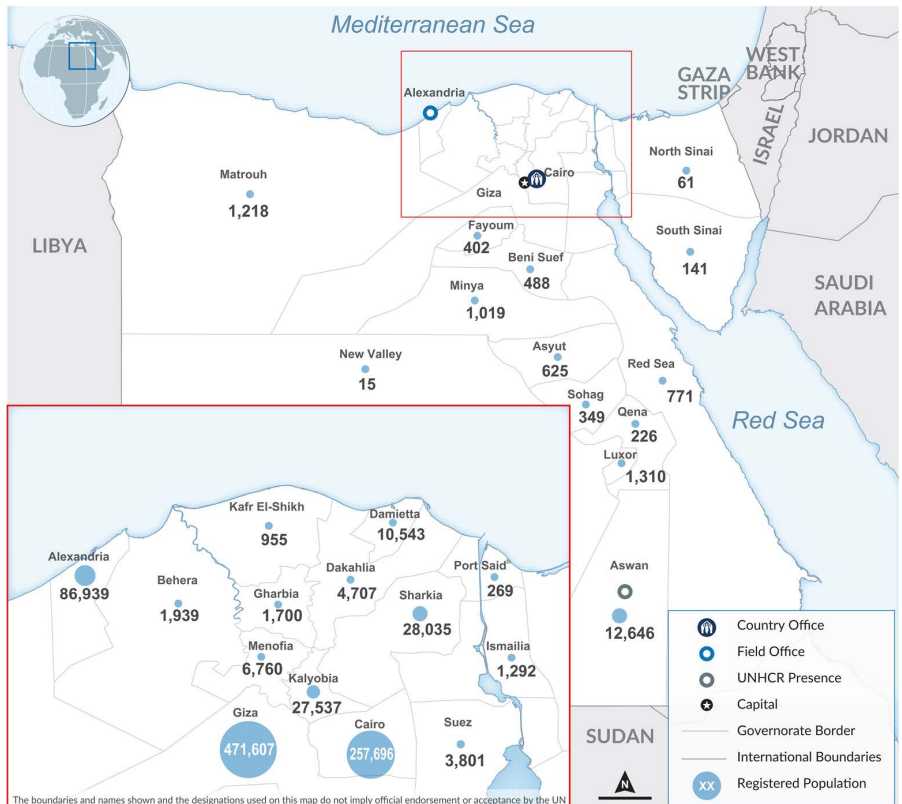
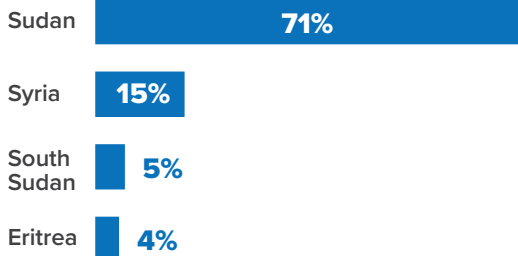
Female

47%



Male

Top Countries of Origin



Source: UNHCR registration data / Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UN

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- Since December 2024, more than 12,500 Syrian refugees have requested UNHCR to close their case files in Egypt, indicating their desire to return to Syria. According to the January 2025 [Refugee Perception and Intention Survey \(RPIS\)](#) carried out by UNHCR, 42% of Syrian refugees in Egypt expressed an intention to return home in the next 12 months, up from just 1% in 2024. Based on these shifts, UNHCR [plans](#) to support the voluntary return of approximately 25,000 Syrian refugees from Egypt in 2025, subject to funds available.
- On 17 February, during the [launch](#) of the [2025 Sudan Refugee Response Plan](#) in Geneva, Egypt's Permanent Mission emphasized that Egypt is the largest host country, with 1.5 million Sudanese new arrivals, and urged the international community to increase its engagement and support for the refugee response. The mission reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to Sudan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. During the event, a Sudanese refugee woman living in Egypt shared her experience of gaining practical skills and benefiting from training programmes through the refugee-led organization Future Hopes. Her story, widely appreciated by the audience in Geneva, highlighted Egypt's role in integrating displaced people
- On 13 February, the UNHCR Representative [participated](#) in a seminar in Cairo, marking the 80th anniversary of the United Nations. During the event, the Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister highlighted the strategic and robust partnership between the MFA and UNHCR, elaborating on the new asylum law. He mentioned that throughout the transition phase, the Government of Egypt aims to work very closely with UNHCR and noted that UNHCR presented a preliminary plan for the asylum transition from UNHCR to the GoE.
- In 2024, UNHCR Egypt provided around 100,000 primary care consultations to refugees and supported specialized healthcare, including hospital care, to more than 5,000 individuals. UNHCR continues supporting national efforts to improve the quality of health services to refugees and asylum-seekers and the host population in areas with high concentrations of refugees. This entails strengthening the existing national health systems through capacity-building and provision of equipment. Through its partners, UNHCR also provides health care for patients with chronic diseases, offers psycho-social and mental health support, and secondary and tertiary health care.

Protection

Registration

As of 25 February 2025, UNHCR Egypt provided registration appointments to 892,000 people forced to flee Sudan since the onset of the conflict in April 2023. Of those, UNHCR has now registered 593,500 individuals for assistance and protection (67%). Most of the newly registered population arriving from Sudan are Sudanese nationals (96%), followed by Eritrean (1.7%), and South Sudanese (1.6%). The great majority originate from Khartoum (83%). Over half (55%) are female and 42% are children.

Following the events in Syria in December 2024, there has been a significant increase in Syrians approaching UNHCR in Egypt to request the closure of their asylum cases. As of 25 February, over 6,120 closure requests involving over 12,516 individuals were submitted, averaging 111 requests per day - compared to just seven per day in November 2024. Two thirds of applicants are male. Regarding their return plans, 61% intend to go to Damascus, 11% to Homs, 8% to Rural Damascus, 4% to Al Bab, and 16% to other locations, with the vast majority identifying these as their original home areas. 75% plan to travel directly to Syria, while 25% intend to transit through other countries. Meanwhile, the number of new asylum applications submitted by Syrians to UNHCR in Egypt has dropped to one-third of the level seen before the new regime came into power in Syria.

Infoline

In the past fortnight, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline handled 23,600 inquiries and booked registration appointments for an average of 409 people daily fleeing the Sudan conflict. Since the Sudan crisis began, a total of 600,600 individuals have scheduled appointments through the system.

Community-Based Protection

Over the last two weeks, some 10,700 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly new arrivals from Sudan, attended information sessions on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints at the UNHCR Reception Centre in Greater Cairo. Additionally, UNHCR partner Terre des Homme (TdH) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 3,520 individuals, out of whom 72 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 200 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance. Additionally, UNHCR provided CBP case management for 265 refugees.

Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

On 18 February, UNHCR hosted a live stream on Facebook to inform the refugee community about its efforts to prevent and respond to GBV. The video garnered over 60,000 views and nearly 2,000 comments, generating strong community interest. The event also provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the availability of safe spaces for GBV survivors in Greater Cairo.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

During the reporting period, 1,070 individuals received legal assistance and counselling through UNHCR and partners, concerning early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Additionally, UNHCR provided LPP case management for 104 refugees.

Capacity-Building

From 11 to 13 February, UNHCR held a workshop at a naval base in Alexandria for 23 Egyptian Navy officers. The training covered UNHCR's mandate, refugee protection, registration, refugee status determination procedures, identifying individuals with specific needs, emergency coordination, and child protection.



Saadia, Leila, Shama and Aziza (from left to right), Sudanese refugee artisans, proudly display the beaded stars they handcrafted in Cairo. These unique pieces are part of the MADE51 initiative. ©UNHCR/Jaime Gimenez


Durable Solutions

During recent focus group discussions organized by UNHCR in Cairo, Syrian refugees who are planning to return to their country cited economic difficulties, housing shortages, and challenges in securing education for their children in Egypt as primary reasons for their decision to return. Noting that there're no direct flights yet open between Cairo and Damascus and in the absence of a shared land border, participants discussed various return routes, including travel through Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. Several male participants stated that they intended to send their wives and children back to Syria while they remain in Egypt to earn a living and send financial support. Others expressed willingness to return only if stable employment and essential infrastructure, such as reliable electricity, were available in Syria.


Cash Assistance

Between 9 and 20 February, UNHCR partner Mindset conducted vulnerability assessments for 2,200 Sudanese individuals in Cairo. Since the Sudan crisis began in April 2023, UNHCR has assessed the vulnerability of 178,800 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, including both new arrivals and those already in Egypt before the crisis. In January and February 2025, some 47,300 Sudanese individuals were supported with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Due to funding shortages, more than 112,000 Sudanese refugees with high poverty levels remained on the MPCA waiting list. This means they met the eligibility criteria for cash assistance as they struggle to survive, but remain unassisted due to the scarcity of funds, nonetheless.

Funding information

UNHCR is grateful for the crucial and generous contributions from its donors, who provide both earmarked and unearmarked funding to support its operations in Egypt, including the response to the Sudan situation.



UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors, including those from Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

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CONTACT: UNHCR External Relations and Public Information Unit – arecapi@unhcr.org

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